

# **Board Study Session (Tuesday, April 29, 2014)**

*Generated by Shelley R Shelton on Tuesday, April 29, 2014*

## **Members present**

Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen, Steven Staples

## **Staff present**

Superintendent Keith Rittel; Assistant Superintendent Ray Morgan; Executive Assistant Shelley Shelton; Executive Director Gaye Gibbs; Executive Director Gary Wilson; Business Administrator Stefanie Bryant

## **Staff excused**

Human Resources Executive Director Melissa Frost

## **Guests**

Technology Director Chad Duncan; Communications and PR Coordinator Caleb Price; PHS Asst. Principal Karen Brown; THS Principal Todd McKee; IHS Principal Rosanna Weeks; Taz Murray

## **Meeting called to order at 7:34 AM**

# **A. 7:30 a.m. Study Session**

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## 2. Roll Call

## 3. School Fee Changes

Business Administrator Stefanie Bryant led the discussion. Talking points included the following:

- The purpose of the discussion is to allow Board members the opportunity to review and discuss changes to the fee/fine schedule prior to formal approval during the May 13 business meeting.
- There are a couple of new classes/fees at THS, Centennial, PHS. There are a few minor fee changes from last year. The fine schedule is unchanged.
- Dixon changed the name of a couple of classes; fees remained the same.
- IHS has optional fees beyond the \$100 required general fee.
- A short fee list for the district office was also included, i.e., student services, e-school, fingerprinting, etc.
- The cost for international students remains the same.
- Side-by-side revenues and expenditures for the secondary schools is included for comparison. Timpview fees for some items are higher than fees for the same items at PHS because Timpview does not subsidize fees from other school budgets.
- Elementary schools revenues/expenditures are flat. THS is not subsidizing any activity fees from school budgets; fees charged are to cover the actual cost of the program. Approximately 40% of PHS activity fees are subsidized by fee waivers.
- Keith asked if there are any hidden fees such as for individual classroom supplies. Stefanie is not aware of any.
- Elementary schools charge for optional summer band.
- The topic will be added to the May 13 board agenda for formal board approval. Board members will submit any additional questions in advance of the meetings.

## 4. K-8 Math Adoption Proposal

Ray distributed copies of the latest, but not final bid for math materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Product from five national vendors was evaluated before selecting Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, whose curriculum is closely aligned with Utah Core Standards. There is a high level of confidence on the part of the math committee in the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt text books. The district has historically established committees to

select math materials; formal approval will be sought in the May 13 business meeting.

Board members will send additional questions about the adoption proposal to Mr. Morgan prior to the meeting.

## 5. 2014-2015 Assessment Plan

Assistant Superintendent Ray Morgan distributed copies of the updated testing opt-out letter. Wasatch Elementary had the highest number (12) of students opting out of testing. Approximately 32 students district wide have opted out.

Additional points of discussion included:

- Principals have expressed concern over the length of the testing, particularly the writing test. Once completed, students will have been involved in six hours of testing, which is an increase of approximately 2 hours of testing time from last year.
- The glossary of terms and purposes for both district and state required tests was reviewed (see attached).
- Member McKay Jensen stated many Wasatch parents don't view the CogAT tests for honors/accelerated placement as valid. There's some parent frustration about students not being allowed to take accelerated courses if interested, regardless of placement scores, at the middle school level.
  - Mr. Morgan responded that parents have the ability to appeal school placement decisions to the principal. The appeal of a district placement decision would go to Mr. Morgan.
  - Supt. Rittel suggested there may be some value to evaluating the gifted programs K-12 and making recommendations of best practices. It would also be beneficial to get the latest definition of "gifted" education, and what that population looks like. National standards of gifted education are pretty clear in terms of the population served.
  - Member Jensen indicated there is a diminishing cultural perception of a scarcity of resources. Parents can still find other resources, but they feel the district is making it harder for parents and students to access them.

### Elementary Assessment Plan 2014-15

- State and district assessment dates were reviewed. The plan has been presented to principals over the past two months.

### Secondary Assessment Plan 2014-15

- State and district assessment dates were reviewed. Middle schools have extended science courses to year-long rather than semester courses.

## 6. Facilities Discussion

Facilities and Maintenance Director Mark Wheeler reviewed the Wasatch proposed roof project as follows:

- Rock covers the current roof system; removing the rock would reduce the seismic load and allow for a new membrane roof system on the school. As the roof continues to age, it pulls up under the rock, leaks and shrinks.
- Estimated cost would be \$232,000.
- The project would include a system to seal the walkway awning between Wasatch and Oakridge.
- It would be more prudent to replace with a 20-year membrane roofing system to avoid having to replace the roof again in 10-15 years.

Cell Tower equipment update:

- Revenue to the district is about \$115,000 annually for all cell towers.
- Wasatch parents are concerned about the health issues and have presented Mark with large amounts of data.
- Mark is concerned with the security risks stemming from having private contractors with 24/7 access to school property without prior notice to the district.

- Variables to consider - contracts in varying staging of expiration; Mark doesn't seem to think there is a significant early termination fee.
- Member Jensen read excerpts from the American Cancer Society that indicated there is very little evidence regarding the risk of cancer from cell towers.
- Mark has received requests from two companies within the past 30 days regarding adding more equipment at Timpview and Wasatch.

Dr. Joe Miner from the Utah County Board of Health will be invited to address the board during the May 13 study session regarding the risks of cell towers.

The Facilities department will proceed with the roofing project at Wasatch.

## **B. Adjourn**

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### **1. Motion to Adjourn**

I move we adjourn the study session and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and personnel.

Motion by Jim Pettersson, second by Shannon Poulsen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen, Steven Staples

The study session was adjourned at 9:01 a.m. and the Board moved into Executive Session.

## **C. 9:00 - 9:20 a.m. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and personnel. Utah Code 52.4.205**

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